

Amendment

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/602,019

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 35, 43 - 58 and 66 - 81 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, where claims 44 - 58 and 67 - 81 have been withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement and claims 43 - 58 and 66 - 81 have been canceled by the subject amendment. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected and/or canceled claims in continuation and/or divisional applications.

Claims 36 and 59 have been amended.

Claims 82 - 95 have been added.

Claims 36 - 42, 59 - 65 and 82 - 95 are present in the subject application.

In the Office Action dated November 10, 2004, the Examiner has objected to claims 37, 43, 60 and 66 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, has rejected claims 36, 38 - 40, 59 and 61 - 63 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and has rejected claims 41, 42, 64 and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Initially, the Examiner has objected to claims 37, 43, 60 and 66 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but further indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, independent claims 36 and 59 have been amended to respectively include the features of claims 43 and 66, while new independent claims 82 and 89 are basically dependent claims 37 and 60 re-written in independent form, respectively. Accordingly, independent claims 36, 59, 82 and 89 are considered to be in condition for allowance.

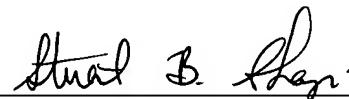
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Claims 37 - 42 and 60 - 65 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 36 and 59, respectively, and are considered to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons discussed above for their parent claims. New claims 83 - 88 and 90 - 95 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 82 and 89, respectively, and are similarly considered to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons discussed above for their parent claims.

The application, having been shown to overcome the issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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